

Scripture this week:

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

¹⁷ But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. ¹⁸ For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, ¹⁹ for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized. ²⁰ When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. ²¹ For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. ²² What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not. ²³ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. ²⁷ Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty

Scripture this week:

1 Corinthians 11:17-34 cont.

concerning the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰ That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. ³¹ But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. ³² But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. ³³ So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another— ³⁴ if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home—so that when you come together it will not be for judgment. About the other things I will give directions when I come.

Communion. Big Deal.

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

Jonny Burns - October 24, 2021

Paul invites the Corinthians (and us) to remember that communion is a big deal because there's nothing bigger than what it represents.

Manifesting symptoms that show communion is not a big deal is a big deal.

Recognizing there is no bigger deal than Jesus' death is a big deal.

Assessing how big a deal communion is to us is a big deal.

Life Group Discussion Questions

Based on 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

Reading the Text:

1. In vv. 17 - 22, Paul says when the Corinthians get together it's actually "*for the worse.*" What does he mean? What is happening in the church?
2. In vv. 23-26, why does Paul play back the experience of the Last Supper?
3. To emphasize the gravity of communion, Paul warns them not to participate in communion in "*an unworthy manner.*" What would make it "a worthy manner"?
4. In vv. 33-34, what is Paul's immediate recommendation for their gathering?

Knowing the Full Picture:

5. Read Luke 22:14-23. What similarities and differences do you see between Luke's account of the Last Supper, Paul's account in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, and what it had become in the Corinthian church?

Living It Out:

6. What has your overall experience been with communion? Good? Bad? Meaningful? Routine?
7. Are there things that we do that would make our participation in communion "*unworthy*"?
8. Are there things that we could do differently or think differently to make our participation in communion more significant to our faith?